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THE IVST MAN IN BONDS.

OR

Lievt. Col. *John Lilburne* cloſe Priſoner in Newgate, by order of the Houſe of Lords.

June 29. London 1646

SInce this worthy gentle mans caſe is mine, and every mans, who though we be at liberty to day, may be in *Newgate* to morrow, if the *Houſe of Lords* ſo pleaſe, doth it not equally and alike concerne all the people of *England* to lay it to heart, and either fit both our minds and necks to undergoe this ſlavery, or otherwiſe thinke of ſome ſpeedy and effectuall meanes to free our ſelves and our poſterity there from.

This noble and reſolute Gentleman Mr. *Lilburne*, then whom his countrey has not a truer and more faithfull ſervant, hath broke the Ice for us all, who being ſenſible that the people are in reall bondage to the *Lords* (and that the Lawes and Statutes providing to the contrary, ſerving them in no ſtead) hath ſingly adventured himſelfe a Champion for his abuſed country men, nothing doubting but that he ſhall thereby open the eyes, and awake the drowſie ſpirits of his fellow Commoners, or rather Slaves (as the caſe now ſtands) with them; and likewiſe animate the repreſentative body of the people, to make uſe of that power wherewith they are truſted to free us, themſelves, their and our poſterities, from the *Houſe of Lords* imperious and ambitious uſurpation.

Object. Some through ignorance, or poverty of ſpirit, may (peradventure) judge Mr. *Lilburne* a raſh young man for his oppoſing himſelfe againſt ſo mighty a ſtreame or torrent of worldly power, which the *Lords* now poſſeſſe. To ſuch I anſwer, 1. That the power of the *Houſe of Lords*, is like a ſhallow, un-even water, more in noiſe then ſubſtance; If we could diſtinguiſh between what is theirs of right, and what by incroachment, we ſhould ſoone find that they have deckt themſelves with the Commoners brave feathers, which being reaſſumed, they would appeare no better arrayed then other men, even equall by Law, inferior in uprightneſſe, and honeſty of converſation: We ſhould then find that they are but painted properties, Dagons, that our ſuperſtition and ignorance, their owne craft and impudence have erected, no naturall iſſues of lawes, but the extuberances and muſhromes of Prerogative, the Wens of juſt government, putting the body of the People to paine, as well as occaſioning deformity, Sons of conqueſt they are and uſurpation, not of choice and election, intruded upon us by power, not conſtituted by conſent, not made by the people, from whom all power, place and office that is juſt in this kingdome ought only to ariſe.

2. Mr. *Lilburnes* oppoſing himſelfe againſt this exorbitant and extra-judiciall power

of the *Lords*, ought rather to be admired by us as a piece of valour we are not yet arrived too, through the faintneſſe of our ſpirits, and dotage upon our eaſe, eaſe, riches, and pleaſures, then cenſured by us as raſh or furious. He that dares ſcale the walls of an enemie, or venture himſelfe upon the utmoſt of danger in the field, is not judged raſh but a valiant man, unleſſe by thoſe low ſpirits that dares not doe as he hath done. Let us therefore rather blame our ſelves for want of fortitude, then accuſe him, as having too much.

Conſider I pray the great danger we are in, if the *Lords* thus preſume to clap a Commoner of *England* in cloſe priſon, even now when the Commons of *England* are ſitting in Parliament, who are put in truſt, and enabled with power to protect the people from ſuch bondage (yea and ſo ſuddainly after they have in effect declared, that they will doe it, in their Declaration of the 17. of *April* laſt) what injuries will not theſe *Lords* doe to us, when the *Parliament* is ended, and the people have none of their owne Commons nor Truſtees to protect them, heare their cryes, nor redreſſe their grievances; What priſon or dungeon will then be baſe enough, what puniſhment or torture great enough for them, that are not cowardiſh enough ſo to be ſlaves and bond-men? And ſo is not the laſt errour, like to be worſe then the firſt?

Death it ſelfe is more tollerable to a generous ſpirit, then cloſe impriſonment, beſides the continuall feares that ſuch an inhumane practice brings with it, of private murther or poiſoning, as there are manifold examples of ſuch cruelties, of which *Overberies* was not one of the leaſt who was poiſoned in the *Tower*, and to ſalve or colour that wickedneſſe, it was ſtrongly given out and avouched that he murthered himſelfe, though afterwards divers were hang'd for it, and the Earle of *Somerſet* and his Counteſſe hardly eſcaped. Sir *Richard Wyeman* was moped and ſtupified with his cloſe impriſonment, and what miſchiefes (of divers ſorts) may be done to honeſt and faithfull Mr. *Liſburne* upon this renued opportunitie by the *Lords* (as he had too much formerly by the *Bishops*, though contrary to all equitie and juſtice, yea and even to the *Lords* owne reparations which lately they voted and alotted to him) whiles he is now cloſe priſoner in their owne hands, who know him to be their chiefeſt oppoſite in all their uſurpations and encroachments upon the *Commoners* freedomes? doth it not concerne all the *Commons of England* to conſider and prevent the ſame, eſpecially their great and generall Counſell in *Parliament* aſſembled.

Lay to heart *I beſeech you* O YEE *HOUSE of* COMMONS, that neither your ſelves nor your children can plead any immunitie or ſecurity from this cruelty and bondage of the *Houſe of Lords*, if now yee be ſlack or negligent, but yee may juſtly expect and feele the ſmart thereof upon you and your poſterity, aswell as we upon us and ours, atleaſt after you are diſſolved, and diſmiſſed from your Authorities. And is not this one of the maine points for which yee have put your ſelves, us, and ſo many of this Nation as ſtand in your defence, to the effuſion and expence of ſo much blood and multituds of eſtates?

If yee did intend to expoſe this Kingdome to the miſeries of warre for no other ends but that one kind of Arbitrary government, *Star-chamber*, or *High Commiſſion Power*, might be aboliſhed, and others of theſe kinds eſtabliſhed over us, why would yee not tell us in due time, that wee might have both ſpared our lives and eſtates, and not made ſo many ſouldiers, Widowes and fatherleſſe to mourne at the Parliaments gates, for the manyfold wants occaſioned by your ſervice, and made us ſooner like humble *vaſſals*, to preſent our ſelves like ſlaves upon our knees at the Houſe of *Lords* Barre, and ſuffer our eares to be bored through with an aule, in teſtimony that wee are their bond-men for ever.

But

But if yee would either free your ſelves of this ſuſpition, or us of thoſe juſt feares, then ſhew your ſelves to be ſuch worthies as doe truly deſerve that title, by uſing this happy opportunity which God hath put into your hands, and making us free-men; it being the maine cauſe for which wee uſed and imployed you, and as a preſent ſigne of your fidelity and magnanimitie, let your reall intentions in the generall appeare by the exactneſſe and ſpeedineſſe of your delivering of this your *owne, and his Countries faithfull ſervant* Mr. *Lilburn* from priſon with all due reparations.

Baniſh all baſe feares, for there be more with you then againſt you, and the juſtneſſe of your cauſe will daylie increaſe both your number and power, for God is alwaies preſent where Juſtice is extant, and yee cannot but obſerve by manifold experiences that he not only loves and protects juſt men, but by his Almighty power ſo abaſeth all their Enemies, that they ſhall flee before him and his, like the duſt before the wind: If yee will but take example by the courage and juſtice of your owne Armies, and doe as they doe, doubtleſſe the ſame God who hath proſpered them will alſo proſper you, yea and be with you, in all your proceedings whilſt yee are with him, but if yee forſake him, (by denying, ſelling, or delaying juſtice, contrary to your duties, Oaths, Covenants, Proteſtaions, and declarations) he will alſo forſake you, as he hath in all ages (even his owne People for their injuſtice, ſins, and abominations) and ſtirred up both forraigne and inteſtine enemies to revenge his juſt quarrell and true cauſe againſt them.

For more particular information, theſe enſuing lines will be a ſpeciall meanes.

VPon the 22. of June 1646. the *Houſe of Lords* ſent an Order to the Keeper of Newgate, to bring Mr. *Lilburn* before them upon the 23. thereof at ten a clock, wherof he having notice that morning, wrot a letter to the ſaid Keeper, declaring his juſt liberties and the *Houſe of Lords uſurpation thereof*, contrary to *Magna Charta* and other fundamentall Lawes of this, Kingdome and that he would not go to them willingly, but had appealed and petitioned to the Houſe of Commons, and therefore he deſired the Keeper to take heed what he did, leſt he could not recall any violent action, not grounded upon Law:

And after Mr. *Lilburn* had ſent the ſaid letter by his wife, together with the printed coppy of his proteſtation againſt the *Houſe of Lords* illegal proceedings againſt him as a Commoner, & his appeale & Petition to the Houſe of Commons, as his competent Judges, but ſhee not finding the Keeper at Newgate priſon, nor at his owne houſe, & the hour of his appearance before the *Houſe of Lords* neer aproching, ſhee delivered the ſame to the Sheriffs of *London*, being then in *Guild-hall* at the Court of Aldermen, where doubtles both the ſaid letter and book were read, and as Sheriffe *Foote* informed her, that they ſent a meſſenger to Newgate with their anſwer, what it was, is not yet knowne.

But if it came at all, it was not in due time, for after the deputy Keeper and his aſſiſtants had attended halfe an hour for Mr. *Lilburns* comming from his chamber to go with them before the Houſe *of Lords* at the time appointed, and upon his conſtant refuſing to go willingly with them (or ſo much as to open his Chamber doore, but ſhut it in token of his conſtant oppoſing ſo unjuſt a power over him a free borne Engliſh man) and before the meſſenger whom he ſent to *Guild-hall* with their conſent, had returned with an anſwer (and whoſe returning they promiſed to attend) [they brake open his doore, tooke him away to *Weſtminſter*] and no meſſenger was ſent (who yet wee have heard of) from the Court of Aldermen.

When they had brought him to the painted chamber next the *Houſe of Lords* doore

doore, where he attended with his Keepers almost two houres before he was called in, (as it seemeth) the *House of Lords* servants and attendants, taking notice of the of the intercourse of Parliament men and others speaking to him told their masters thereof, and left their usurpation of the Commons liberties, and his just cause should be manifested as well by word, as by writing, the *Lords* did call his Keepers and commanded them that they should speedily charge him to hold his peace, and speake with none at all, but to be altogether silent untill he was called in before them to answer their interrogatories.

Unto whom he returned this answer, and bad them tell the same to the *House of Lords* who sent them, that he would not hold his peace, but speak with any man who in the way of love spake to him, so long as he had his tongue, except the *Lords* should put a gag into his mouth as their *Fellow Lords the Bishops did to him 8. yeares agoes on the Pillory at Westminster, after they had caused him to be whipt from the Fleet prison thither*, and after he had told them their spirituall usurpations, as it doth these *Lords* their temporall encroachments on free mens liberties.

Then he being called into the *House of Lords*, was commanded by their keeper of the Black-Rod to kneele before them, which he absolutely refused to doe, and after their still urging, and his constant refusing, they asked him the reason, he answered that he had learned both better Religion and manners then to kneele to any humane or mortall power how great so ever, whom he never offended, and far lesse to them whom he had defended with the adventure both of his life and estate, yea and withall the friends he could make: whereupon they not only returned him to *Newgate* prison, but commanded him to be kept close-Prisoner, as appeareth by these ensuing orders.

Die Lunæ 22. Junij 1646.

Ordered by the Lords in Parliament assembled, that Lieu. Col John Lilburne *now a prisoner in Newgate, shall be brought before their Lordships in the* [*High Court of* PARLIAMENT] *to morrow morning by ten of the clock: And this to be a sufficient warrant in that behalfe.*

To the Gent. Usher of this House, or his Deputy, to be delivered to the Keeper of Newgate or his Deputy.

Ioh. Brown Cler. Parliamentorum.

Die Martis 23. Iunij. 1646.

Ordered by the LORDS *in* PARLIAMENT *assembled, that* John Lilburn *shall stand committed close prisoner in the Prison of* Newgate; *and that he be not permitted to have pen, inke, or paper; and none shall have accesse unto him in any kind, but only his Keeper, untill this Court doth take further order.*

To the Keeper of Newgate his deputy or deputies.

Ioh. Brown Cleric. Parliamentorum.
Exam. per. Rec. Bristoe Cleric. de Newgate.

FINIS.

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